

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the Official Action of February 12, 2004 relating to the above identified application.

Claims 1, 10, 11, 13, 15 and 18 have been amended to capitalize the first letter "A" of the claim and therefore the objection to the claims for that reason has been overcome.

Claims 11 and 13 have been amended to correct certain editorial matters of a grammatical and style nature.

The rejection of Claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a), as unpatentable over *Hoshiki*, in view of *Amada* (U.S. 5, 241,543) is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The subject matter of the elected claims is discussed in the application on the bottom of page 7 (11<sup>th</sup> aspect of the invention) and continuing on to page 8.

In the Official Action, it is said that *Hoshiki* discloses a method and system including determining a transmitting node based on a token circulated among a plurality of nodes and transmitting data by specifying another specific node as a destination. The Official Action notes that *Hoshiki* does not expressly disclose obtaining clock information and adding the clock information to the data to be transmitted. The Official Action goes on to say that *Hoshiki* does not further disclose determining a clock master for providing a reference clock, transmitting data including the clock information, receiving the clock information within data by other nodes and adjusting the internal clock to the reference clock indicated by the received clock information.

The secondary reference of *Amada* is relied on in the Official Action to disclose a system and method for obtaining clock information and adding the clock information to the data to be

transmitted. The Official Action concludes that one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the clock synchronization method as disclosed in *Amada* in the invention of *Hoshiki* in order to help facilitate the elimination of clock jitter accumulation.

In response, applicants point out that the “clock synchronization” of *Amada* is a synchronization of operating timing and synchronization of a frame. Hence, applicants submit that the “clock synchronization” of the cited references is completely different from the “synchronization” of the “clock information” of the present invention. In the present invention, an internal clock of each node is synchronized with a reference clock data received from the clock master, according to a difference between the reference clock and the time of internal clock. In the present claims, the term “clock information” does not mean synchronization signal or the like, but literally means mere “clock information”. The control information mentioned in Claim 13 means information sent under some purpose for actively controlling apparatuses or nodes. In the cited references, the clock information is sent in order to change actions of another apparatus.

On the other hand, in the present invention the “clock information” is not sent in order to actively control any other apparatus, but the “clock information” is only information for indicating a condition of the apparatus. The subject matter of the present invention as set forth in Claim 13 is that the internal clock of a receiving node is synchronized based on the information sent from a transmitting or sending node wherein the information has no purpose of actively controlling the receiving node. Accordingly, the references do not show obtaining clock information by a node having said data transmission right and adding the obtained clock

information to a data to be transmitted as set forth in Claim 11. Neither do the references show receiving the clock information within the data transmitted from the said clock master by nodes other than the said clock master and adjusting an internal clock according to the reference clock indicated by the received clock information, as set forth in Claim 13.

Accordingly, for reasons set forth above, applicant respectfully submit that the references do not create *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention and, therefore, the rejection based thereon should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as unpatentable under *Hoshiki*, in view of *Amada*, and further in view of *Hoho*, is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested. The *Hoho* reference is relied on in the Official Action to disclose a transmission system and a method including two different nodes for transmitting, one including adding control information to a packet prior to transmission and a second node which does not include adding control information to the packet. The Official Action concludes that it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to include the two nodes as described by *Hoho* in the invention disclosed by *Hoshiki*, as modified by *Amada*. The Official Action alleges that motivation to do this would be to facilitate the enhancement of system control capacity by helping to simplify the routines on the computer side for the purposes of minimizing the processing node. Applicants submit that the clock synchronization provided by *Amada* is completely different from the clock information obtained in accordance with practicing the method of the elected invention. In the present invention, an internal clock of each node is synchronized with reference clock data received from the clock master according to the

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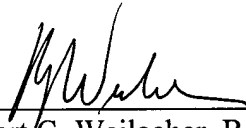
difference between the reference clock and the time of the internal clock. Hence, the clock information does not mean synchronization of signals but literally means clock information. In accordance with the present invention, the clock information is only information for indicating a condition of the apparatus. In the present invention, the clock information is not set to actively control an apparatus. The subject matter of the present invention is that the internal clock of a receiving node is synchronized based on the information sent from a transmitting node where the information has no purpose of actively controlling the receiving node.

In view thereof, applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation to combine the references in the matter set forth in the Official Action. The rejection is therefore submitted to be improper and should be withdrawn.

Favorable action at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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